

CONTACT:

Jennifer Pennell, MPH, CHES
Health Education Specialist II
1-800-472-5609
San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control Program
606 E. Mill St., 2nd Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0003

June 15, 2006

PHD # 06-30



For release – Summer 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
"A Summer Safety Tip for Pet Owners"

The San Bernardino County Animal Care & Control Program would like to remind pet owners to be extra careful when transporting pets during the hot summer months. On a warm day, even when the car is parked in the shade with the windows cracked, the temperature inside a car can rapidly reach 120 degrees, which can result in your pet suffering from brain damage and even dying from a heatstroke. Remember, a dog's body temperature is normally 102 degrees, which is higher than humans, plus he is wearing a fur coat.

In addition, if you own a pick-up truck, please do not transport your pet in the truck bed – especially on a hot day since the sun heats the metal, which can burn a dog's feet. Besides being extremely dangerous, your dog could jump or fall out if unrestrained or can hang themselves if tethered.

Pet theft, car fire, carbon monoxide poisoning, injury, strangulation, and separation anxiety are a few of the other dangers that can result from leaving a pet alone in a car. Remember — it only takes a second for tragedy to occur. Don't take the risk! Please remember that a car is not a pet sitter and that the best way to show your pet you love them is to leave them at home where they will be more comfortable and above all **SAFE!** If you have questions or need addition information, please call the Animal Care & Control Program toll free at 1-800-472-5609 or visit the Educational Services section of our website at www.sbcounty.gov/acc. Thank you!

###